INL serves the nation as a

Federally Funded Research & Development Center

The INL Research Center, with its 35-acre campus on the north side of Idaho Falls, Idaho—is home to more than 350 researchers and 66 discrete laboratories.

The Idaho National Laboratory (INL) is a national research treasure that stands in the company of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the National Science Foundation's National Center for Atmospheric Research and the National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute as a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC).

The predecessors to these centers were created to meet the nation's technology needs during World War II. The Federally Funded Research and Development Center name came into being in 1967.

Today, INL is one of only 36 FFRDCs in existence, and the only FFRDC located in the Northern Rocky Mountain region.

As a Department of Energy multiprogram national laboratory and one of the agency's 16 FFRDCs, INL performs work in all the agency's business lines – energy security, national security, environmental quality and science. INL has special responsibilities following its July 2002 Secretarial designation as the nation's leading center for nuclear energy research and development.

FFRDC Characteristics

INL fills a special role and enjoys a unique position with regard to conducting federal work. The following are some of these major characteristics.

- Performs, analyzes, integrates, supports (non-financial) and/or manages basic research, applied research, and/or development.
- Performs actual R&D or R&D management either by direct request or under a broad charter from the federal government, but in either case under direct government monitoring.
- Has or is expected to have a long-term relationship with its sponsoring agency, as evidenced by the specific obligations it and the agency assume.

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Compelling capabilities and unique facilities that are readily accessible because of it's status as a Federally Funded Research and Development Center – make INL a valuable partner in any quest for science-enabled success.

Science

INL

Idaho National Laboratory

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Visit this web site for information on INL partnering mechanisms:

www.inl.gov/techtransfer/partnering.asp

INL is a U.S. Department of Energy national laboratory operated by Battelle Energy Alliance

- FFRDCs are operated, managed and administered by a university or consortium of universities, other not-for-profit or nonprofit organizations, industrial firms, autonomous organizations or as a separate operating unit of a parent organization.
- Long-term relationships between the government and FFRDCs are encouraged in order to provide the continuity that will attract high-quality personnel to the FFRDC. This relationship encourages the FFRDC to stay current in its expertise, maintain its objectivity and independence, preserve its familiarity with the needs of its sponsors, and provide a quick response capability.
- An FFRDC may perform work for other than the sponsoring agency under the "Economy Act" or other applicable legislation when the work is not otherwise available from the private sector.

Working with INL

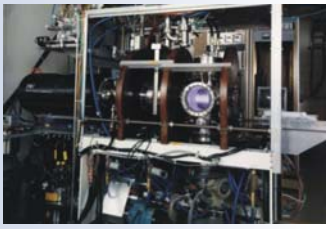
As with all FFRDCs, there are a number of tools or mechanisms that other government agencies and outside customers can use to tap into the remarkable resources and technological developments of INL.

Notable among these tools are Cooperative Research and Development Agreements, more commonly known as CRADAs. These are written agreements between the Laboratory and one or more non-federal entities that work together on a project. The CRADA process was established in 1986, with subsequent legislative improvements to reduce the time and effort involved in the development of these unique research and development pacts.

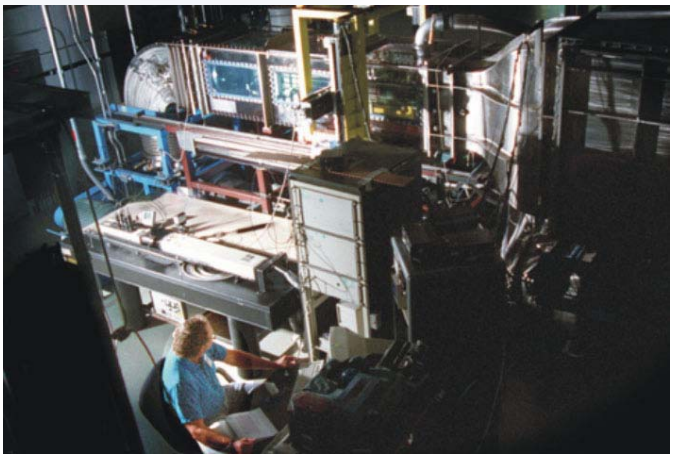
Another way of accessing INL's technological capabilities and expertise is through its "Work for Others" process. This process allows non-DOE entities to contract with DOE-operated facilities for tasks related to the facilities' core capabilities.

Core capabilities of INL include nuclear reactor design, reactor demonstration and safety; processing and managing radioactive and hazardous materials; developing, modeling, testing and validating engineered systems and processes; and capabilities in subsurface geoscience and geochemistry.

The INL Geocentrifuge Research Laboratory is a 2-meter geocentrifuge user facility in Idaho Falls.



The Tritium Plasma experiment is just one example of the comprehensive research underway at the Safety and Tritium Applied Research (STAR) national user facility.



Outside researchers are invited to perform their fluid flow and design experiments at the INL's Matched Index of Refraction facility, which is five to ten times larger than other test equipment of its kind and function.